

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell system comprising:
 - a fuel cell body;
 - a first portion and a second portion which cooperate with each other to jointly form a passage for hydrogen exhausted from the fuel cell body;
 - a hydrogen exhaust valve disposed in the passage between the first portion and the second portion; and
 - a spring member interposed between the hydrogen exhaust valve and one of the first portion and the second portion to urge the hydrogen exhaust valve directly against the other one of the first portion and the second portion, wherein
wherein the first portion and the second portion are directly fixed to each other and are both continuously supplied with heat from the fuel cell body following start up of the fuel cell body, and
the first portion includes at least one of a gas-liquid separation unit supplied with heat from inflowing exhaust gas from the fuel cell body and an end plate provided in a stack configured by the fuel cell body and supplied with heat liberated by the stack.
- 2-3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system according to claim 1, wherein the second portion is a hydrogen processing unit supplied with heat from inflowing exhaust gas from the fuel cell body.
5. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system according to claim 4, wherein the hydrogen processing unit includes at least one of a dilution unit and a combustion unit.

6. (Canceled)
7. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system according to claim 1, wherein one of the first portion and the second portion includes a cover formed with an internal space that accommodates the hydrogen exhaust valve; and the other one of the first portion and the second portion closes the internal space of the cover within which the hydrogen exhaust valve is disposed.
8. (Canceled)
9. (Previously Presented) A fuel cell system according to claim 1, wherein the hydrogen exhaust valve is fixed to the first portion and the second portion.
- 10-11. (Canceled)
12. (New) A fuel cell system comprising:
 - a fuel cell body;
 - a first portion and a second portion which cooperate with each other to jointly form a passage for hydrogen exhausted from the fuel cell body;
 - a hydrogen exhaust valve disposed in the passage between the first portion and the second portion; and
 - a spring member interposed between the hydrogen exhaust valve and one of the first portion and the second portion to urge the hydrogen exhaust valve directly against the other one of the first portion and the second portion, wherein
 - the first portion and the second portion are directly fixed to each other and are both continuously supplied with heat from the fuel cell body following start up of the fuel cell body, and
 - seal mechanisms are respectively interposed between the hydrogen exhaust valve and each of the first portion and the second portion.

13. (New) A fuel cell system according to claim 12, wherein the second portion is a hydrogen processing unit supplied with heat from inflowing exhaust gas from the fuel cell body.

14. (New) A fuel cell system according to claim 13, wherein the hydrogen processing unit includes at least one of a dilution unit and a combustion unit.

15. (New) A fuel cell system according to claim 12, wherein one of the first portion and the second portion includes a cover formed with an internal space that accommodates the hydrogen exhaust valve; and the other one of the first portion and the second portion closes the internal space of the cover within which the hydrogen exhaust valve is disposed.

16. (New) A fuel cell system according to claim 12, wherein the hydrogen exhaust valve is fixed to the first portion and the second portion.